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PRINT HANDBOOK

SEPTEMBER 2 0 0 4

GETTING STARTED

Call Promissor to:

- Obtain information about the examination.
- Make an examination reservation.
- Cancel or change an examination reservation.

Promissor Registered Sanitarian Exam (37 TX) PO Box 8588 Philadelphia, PA 19101-8588 (800) 470-8753

For best results when calling Promissor:

- The call center is open Monday through Friday, 6 am to 10 pm, Saturday 7 am to 4 pm, and Sunday 9 am to 3 pm (Central Standard Time).
 For more information see Exam Reservations.
- Whenever possible, call between Tuesday and Thursday or on weekends, when you are more likely to speak with a call center representative without delay.
- Have a pencil or pen available to record any additional information.
- Have your identification number ready, if you have one.
- Have a list of prepared questions.
- Have this handbook available for reference.
- Record the name of the call center representative with whom you speak.
- Consider faxing the Fax Reservation Form in the back of this handbook to Promissor instead of calling for a reservation. You may fax the form twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.

GETTING STARTED

Call the Texas Department of State Health Services to:

- Obtain information about examination requirements.
- Obtain information about the content of the examination.
- Obtain information about the *Letter of Eligibility*.
- Request special examination requests and services.

Texas Department of State Health Services PLC Registered Sanitarian Exam

1100 West 49th Street Austin, TX 78756 (512) 834-4517

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INTRODUCTION

Objective of the Exam

The purpose of the registered sanitarian (RS) examination is to help ensure public safety by reliably determining that registered sanitarians are sufficiently knowledgeable in basic and natural sciences and their application in a variety of environmental health activities. Each applicant for sanitarian registration who meets the education requirements must pass the RS examination prior to the issuance of registration.

This handbook is designed to provide you with general information regarding the RS examination, as well as with an overview of the content areas on which you will be examined.

Your state uses the services of Promissor to administer and score the RS examination. Promissor is one of the leading providers of assessment, licensing, and credentialing support services to national associations, state regulatory agencies, the health profession, and private industry.

Establishing Passing Standards

The RS examination measures the knowledge and skills required to be a sanitarian, and represents a standard of performance that subject matter experts agree is the minimum acceptable level for registration in the sanitarian profession. To establish a pass/fail standard, a panel of registered sanitarians met to review the content of the examination. The independent judgments of the panel members were aggregated to determine the passing score for the examination.

EXAM RESERVATIONS

Eligibility

You are responsible for knowing all regulations regarding examinations and fees presented in this handbook.

The Texas Department of State Health Services has established criteria governing who may take the Registered Sanitarian Examination. You must review the materials distributed by the Texas Department of State Health Services to determine

whether you meet the eligibility requirements. If you meet the eligible requirements, you will be sent a *Letter of Eligibility* from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Once you have received the *Letter of Eligibility*, you may call Promissor to schedule an examination. Please note that you may not take the examination before you complete your training program.

Phone Reservations

You may call Promissor at (800) 470-8753 to make an examination reservation. A call center representative will help you select a convenient examination date and location and answer your questions. Walk-in examinations are not available.

PROMISSOR CALL CENTER HOURS		
Monday – Friday	6 am – 10 pm	
Saturday	7 am – 4 pm	
Sunday	9 am – 3 pm	

Central Standard Time

Have available the following information when you call to make an examination reservation:

- Your full name, address, Social Security number, daytime telephone number, and date of birth
- The examination date and location of the test center you desire
- The name of the examination (refer to Registered Sanitarian Exam–37 TX) you want to take
- *Letter of Eligibility* (issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services)

You will receive a confirmation number, which you must bring to the test center on examination day. Write this number down.

Confirmation Number:		
Examination Date:		
Test Center:		
Call Center Representative:		

You should make a phone reservation at least three (3) business days before the desired examination date. Reservations are made according to test center capacity and availability.

FOR AN EXAM ON:	CALL BY:
Thursday	Monday
Friday	Tuesday
Saturday	Wednesday
Monday	Thursday
Tuesday	Thursday/Friday
Wednesday	Saturday/Sunday

Fax Reservations

As an alternative to a telephone reservation, you may make a reservation by fax. Complete the *Fax Reservation Form* in the back of this handbook and fax it to Promissor at (888) 204-6291 twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. You must make a fax reservation at least four (4) business days before the desired examination date. A confirmation of this fax reservation will be returned to you by fax within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of your reservation request.

Exam Fee

You must pay the examination fee (\$50) at the time of reservation by credit card, debit card, voucher, or electronic check. Payment will not be accepted at the test center, nor will any payment that covers more than one candidate. Examination fees are non-refundable and non-transferable, except as detailed in *Change/Cancel Policy*.

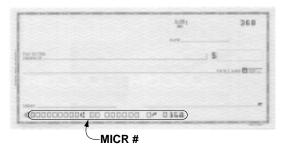
Electronic Checks

If you choose to pay the examination fee by electronic check you must have a personal checking account, and must be prepared to provide to Promissor at the time of reservation the following information:

- Bank name
- MICR number
- Social Security number or driver's license number

- Name and address on the account
- Account number

The MICR number can be found on a paper check as illustrated:



Using this information, Promissor can request payment from your bank account just as if you had submitted an actual paper check.

Vouchers

You may pre-pay examination fees and receive a voucher to use when you contact Promissor to make an examination reservation. The number listed on the voucher will be accepted by Promissor as payment for the examination fee.

Those who wish to purchase a voucher should send a *Voucher Request Form* (found in the back of this handbook), along with proper payment. Promissor will process voucher requests within one (1) week of receipt. Vouchers are valid for one (1) year from the issue date, and may be renewed or refunded.

Change/Cancel Policy

You must telephone Promissor at (800) 470-8753 at least four (4) business days before the examination to change or cancel a reservation. You may not change or cancel a reservation by fax. If you change or cancel a reservation with proper notice, you may either transfer your fees to a new reservation or request a refund. If you change or cancel a reservation without proper notice, you will forfeit the examination fee.

TO CHANGE/CANCEL A RESERVATION WITHOUT PENALTY		
If your exam is on: Call by the previous		
Monday	Wednesday	
Tuesday	Thursday	
Wednesday	Friday	
Thursday	Sunday	
Friday	Monday	
Saturday	Tuesday	

This chart does not reflect holidays, which will increase the number of days' notice you must give.

Absence/Lateness Policy

If you are late to or absent from your examination, you may be excused for any of the following reasons:

- Illness—yours, or that of an immediate family member
- Death in the immediate family
- Disabling traffic accident
- Court appearance or jury duty
- Military duty

If you are otherwise absent from or late to an examination, and have not changed or canceled the reservation as detailed in *Change/Cancel Policy*, you will forfeit the examination fee.

You must submit to Promissor written verification and supporting documentation of the reason for your absence within fourteen (14) days after the original examination date. Documentation for absences for medical reasons must have the original signature of the medical practitioner. Stamped signatures will not be accepted.

Weather Delays and Cancellations

If severe weather or a natural disaster makes the test center inaccessible or unsafe, the examination may be delayed or canceled. You may tune to local radio stations for details on cancellations during severe weather.

RADIO STATIONS			
Code	Location	Call Letters	Frequency
4477	Abilene	KWKC	1340 AM
4419	Amarillo	KGNC	710 AM
4407	Arlington	WBAP KRLD	820 AM 1080 AM
4421	Austin	KPEZ	102.3 FM
4412	Corpus Christi	KEYS K99 KSAB KMXR	1440 AM
4402	El Paso	KROD	600 AM
4422	Houston	KTRH	740 AM
4426	Houston II	KTRH	740 AM
4408	Lubbock	KLLL	96.3 FM/ 1590 AM
4470	McAllen	KBFM	104 FM
4429	Midland	LALEY KODM	104.7 FM/ 96.9 FM
4428	Plano	WBAP	820 AM
4423	San Antonio	KTSA	550 AM
4420	Tyler	KTBB/ WBAP	820 AM
4427	Waco	KLRK KWTX	92.9 FM 97.5 FM

Special Exam Requests and Services

Promissor complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.), in accommodating disabled candidates. Auxiliary aids and services will not be authorized if they would fundamentally alter the nature of the examination or if providing them would result in an undue burden for the state or Promissor.

If you need to request special examination services due to impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, or another disability, you must contact the Texas Department of State Health Services at (512) 834-4517 for approval. Once you have been approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services for special examination services, you may mail or fax a written request to Promissor. The special request fax line is (610) 617-9397. Your request should include verification of state approval; your name, address, and Social Security number; the desired examination date, location, and time; and a description of the special requirements. Your request must also include both supporting documentation from a physician (or other qualified professional) that reflects a diagnosis of your condition and also an accompanying explanation of the required examination aids or modifications.

Promissor recommends that you request special services as early as possible due to the unique nature of each special request. Promissor will make a concerted effort to provide reasonable accommodations as permitted by state regulatory agencies and individual test center capabilities.

If you have additional questions concerning special examination requests and services, you may contact Promissor by telephone at (800) 274-3707 or by fax at (610) 617-9397. If you need to retest and special arrangements were used for the prior examination, please notify Promissor of these arrangements at the time you schedule your re-examination.

Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf

Promissor is equipped with Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) to assist deaf and hearing-impaired candidates. Call the special TDD toll-free number at (800) 274-2617 to make an examination reservation. This telephone number is for use only by candidates with compatible TDD equipment.

Non-Saturday Exams

If, for religious reasons, you cannot take an examination offered only on Saturdays, you may request a non-Saturday examination. This request must be made in writing by your religious advisor on official stationery and sent to the Texas Department of State Health Services, who will notify Promissor. The Department must first approve your request before Promissor may schedule the examination.

EXAM DAY

Reporting Time

Your specific reporting time will be given to you when you make your examination reservation. Please allow yourself sufficient time to find the test center on the day of the examination, and make sure you have all necessary documentation before you report for the examination. It is recommended that you report to the test center thirty (30) minutes before your examination in order to complete registration.

What to Bring

You must bring to the examination the following:

- Two (2) forms of signature identification, one of which is photo-bearing
- Confirmation number
- Correct fee
- A *Letter of Eligibility* (issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services)

If you do not present the required items on examination day, you will be denied admission to the examination, considered absent, and will forfeit the examination fee.

Exam Procedures

When you arrive at the test center, report to the test center manager. Present your confirmation number and identification, and any other required documents. The test center manager will review these materials and photograph you for your score report.

The test center manager will assign you a seat and assist you with the personal computer (PC) on which you will take the examination. You will have an opportunity to take a tutorial on the PC. You may take as much as fifteen (15) minutes with this tutorial. The time you spend on the tutorial will not reduce the time allotted for taking your examination. The test center manager will answer any questions you may have about the PC at this time. When you feel comfortable with the PC, you may begin your examination. If you choose to begin your examination before the full fifteen (15) minute tutorial period is complete, please be aware that

other candidates may still be receiving assistance from the test center manager. The examination begins the moment you look at the first question.

You will have two (2) hours to take the examination. At the end of this time, the examination will automatically end. You should alert the test center manager when you have completed your examination by raising your hand. Official scoring of your examination will take place immediately. You will leave the test center with your official results in hand.

Test centers are designed to be quiet and comfortable, but please be aware that since test centers are located in office buildings in major cities, some occasional background noise may be present while you are taking your examination. You are responsible for reporting any unusual distractions to the test center manager before you leave the test center.

The test center manager is not familiar with the content of your examination nor with your state's registration requirements. You are responsible for determining what you must do to complete registration.

The entire question pool for the examination, each form of the examination, and any materials used to administer the examination are copyrighted and approved for use by the Texas Department of State Health Services and the National Environmental Health Association for the Texas Registered Sanitarian examination.

TEST CENTER POLICIES

To ensure that all candidates take the examination under equally favorable conditions, the following regulations and procedures are observed at each test center:

Lateness

If you are late to your examination, you will not be permitted to take the examination and you will forfeit the examination fee.

Electronic Devices

Calculators are permitted if they are silent, handheld, battery-operated, nonprinting, and without an alphabetic key pad. **You may not use any other calculator.** Violation of this rule may result in dismissal from the examination room. Calculator malfunctions are not grounds for challenging examination results or requesting additional examination time. Promissor will not provide calculators for the examination.

Cellular phones, beepers, and any other electronic devices must be turned off and may not be used during the examination. There is no place for storage of personal belongings at the test center.

Study Aids/Personal Belongings

You are not permitted to take personal belongings such as briefcases, large bags, study materials, extra books, or papers into the examination room. Any such materials brought into the examination room will be collected and returned to you when you have completed the examination. Promissor is not responsible for lost or misplaced items.

Dictionaries, books, and reference materials are not permitted in the examination room, and you are strongly urged not to bring such materials to the test center. If you are found with these or any other aids during testing, such as watch alarms, listening devices, or recording or photographic devices, you will not be allowed to continue the examination.

No notes of any kind may be taken from the examination room. Scratch paper will be provided at the test center and will be collected at the end of your examination. For security reasons, only one piece of scratch paper will be given to you at a time. Please be aware that even if you have made memory-assisting notes on a sheet of scratch paper, you will be required to hand in that sheet in order to receive another blank sheet.

Eating/Drinking/Smoking

You are not permitted to eat, drink, or smoke during the examination.

Misconduct

If you are discovered causing a disturbance of any kind or engaging in any kind of misconduct—giving or receiving help; using notes, books, or other aids; taking part in an act of impersonation; or removing examination materials or notes from the examination room—you will be summarily dismissed from the examination and reported to your state regulatory agency. Decisions regarding disciplinary measures are the responsibility of this agency.

Visitors/Guests

No visitors, guests, pets, or children are allowed at the test center.

Exam Security

The security and confidentiality of all examination materials and data are of utmost concern during every phase of the examination process. Examination security will be strictly enforced. Any individual who has been determined to be in violation of security procedures will be prosecuted. If you are found in violation of any security procedure, the following actions may be taken: your results may be delayed; your examination scores may be voided; and/or your application for future examinations may be denied.

You are not permitted to discuss the contents of the examination or remove examination materials from the test center at any time. The examination items are copyrighted by the National Environmental Health Association, and approved for use by the Texas Department of State Health Services and the National Environmental Health Association for the Texas Registered Sanitarian examination. All examination materials are confidential. Any distribution of examination content or materials through any form of reproduction or through oral or written communication about the examination is strictly prohibited and punishable by law. Examination materials are not available to you for review at any time.

SCORE REPORTING

Pass/Fail Notice

You will be told whether you passed or failed upon completion of the examination.

Candidates who pass will be notified with the word "pass" on their notice. Those who fail will be given an overall percentage score reflecting the number of questions they answered correctly, as well as diagnostic information in each of the examination content areas. All candidates will be provided with information about the next step in the registration or examination process. Reservations for re-examination may not be made at the test center.

Retaking the Exam

If you failed the examination, you must wait ninety (90) days before retaking it.

Follow the procedures outlined in *Exam Reservations* to schedule another examination, and have your failing score report available when you call. On the day of your re-examination, you must bring a new *Letter of Eligibility* from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Duplicate Score Report

You may request a duplicate score report by completing the Request for Duplicate Score Report Form found in the back of this handbook.

Please note that duplicate score reports are available *for a fee* through Promissor if you took your examination *on or after September 16, 2002*. For duplicate score reports *before* September 16, 2002, *and at no fee*, please send a written request along with your name, Social Security number, and mailing address to:

Texas Department of State Health Services PLC Registered Sanitarian Exam

1100 West 49th Street Austin, TX 78756

Candidate Feedback

The Texas Department of State Health Services and Promissor believe that your opinion is important, and they welcome your feedback about your examination experience. At the end of the examination, you will be asked a series of questions on the PC regarding your experience with Promissor and with the examination process. These are optional questions that are in NO way linked to the scoring of your examination. Additional comments or feedback, both positive and negative, should be directed in writing to:

Promissor Registered Sanitarian Examination PO Box 8588 Philadelphia, PA 19101-8588

If you have questions regarding the *content* of the examination, please put them in writing and mail them to:

Texas Department of State Health Services PLC Registered Sanitarian Exam 1100 West 49th Street Austin, TX 78756

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM

Exam Structure

Each registered sanitarian examination consists of 100 multiple-choice questions.

Each question on the examination is in a fouroption, multiple-choice format, with one correct answer. Examination scores are based on the number of questions answered correctly. Answer choices for each question should be considered carefully and the least likely ones eliminated. However, it is better to answer every question than to leave questions unanswered.

Exam Content Areas

- Insect & Rodent Control
- Health Administration
- Industry/Institutional Hygiene
- Solid Waste
- Basic/Natural Sciences
- Water & Wastewater
- Epidemiology
- Food Hygiene

Exam Reference List

- Environmental Health, 2003, M.T. Morgan
- Environmental Engineering, 5th edition, 2003, J.A. Salvato, N. Nemerow, F. Agardy
- Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, 17th edition, 2000, A. S. Benenson
- Epidemiology in Medicine, 1987, C. H. Hennekens
- Public Health Law Manual, 2nd edition, 1990, F. P. Grad
- Environmental Law and Enforcement, 1994,
 G. I. McGregor
- Principles of Food Sanitation, 1999, 4th edition, N. G. Marriott
- Applied Foodservice Sanitation, 4th edition, 1995, Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association

Sample Multiple-Choice Questions

Multiple-choice questions that are in the fouroption format require the examinee to select the best answer from the four answer choices provided.

Examples:

- A number of environmentalists are concerned about the use of chlorine in potable water systems which contain hydrocarbon contaminants because:
 - A. gastroenteritis may result from drinking this water
 - B. dermatitis may result from contact with this water
 - C. infants drinking this water may develop methemoglobinemia
 - *D. the chlorine may combine with the hydrocarbons to produce carcinogenic substances
- Stores that sell bottled water often have treatment units that utilize activated carbon. The main purpose of activated carbon is to remove:
 - A. bacteria
 - B. iron and manganese
 - C. turbidity
 - *D. tastes and odors
 - 3. When algae bloom in a lake, a substance which is depleted is:
 - A. hydrogen
 - B. nitrogen
 - *C. oxygen
 - D. phosphorus

^{* =} correct answer





Texas Registered Sanitarian Fax Reservation Form

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
Street Address		
City	State	ZIP
()		
Telephone (Daytime)	lelephone (Evening) □ am	□ pm
() Your Fax #	Today's Date/Time	
Social Security #	Date of Birth	
Licensure State		
Candidate Signature		
	gnature, I verify I have been approved gistered sanitarian examination.	l by the
Promissor Test	Center	
	Code	
	nme:	
Choice #I Da	ite 🗌 AM 🔲	PM
Choice #2 Da	te 🗆 AM 🗆	PM
	y we register you for e next available date?	No
CREDIT CARD I	rd 🗖 Visa 🗖 AmExpress 🗖 Disc	
Expiration Date	::	
Signature:		
ELECTRONIC C	HECK PAYMENTS:	
Bank Name:		
MICR #:		
Account #:		
Name/Address on A	Account (if different from above):	
FOR	PROMISSOR USE ONLY -	
Re	servation is confirmed for:	
Examination Da	te Time	
Confirmation N	lumber	
Promissor Test	Center	_



Texas Registered Sanitarian Request for Duplicate Score Report Form

DIRECTIONS:

You may use this form to request a duplicate score report. Please print or type all information on the back of this form. Be sure to give all information and include the correct fee, or the request will be returned.

Please note that for duplicate score reports *before* September 16, 2002, please send a written request including your name, Social Security number, and mailing address only (a fee is NOT required in this case) to:

Texas Department of State Health Services PLC
Registered Sanitarian Exam
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

For duplicate score reports on or after September 16, 2002:

FEE: \$10 for scores less than two years old.

Please enclose **certified check or money order** made payable to "Promissor Processing Center". Do not send cash. Write your Promissor identification number or Social Security number on your payment.

SEND TO: Promissor/Texas

Multiprogram (37TX) Duplicate Score Request

PO Box 8588

Philadelphia, PA 19101-8588

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	
\$	

Please complete the following form with your current name and address. All information must be complete and accurate to ensure proper processing.
Name
Street
City
State ZIP
Tel. ()
If the above information was different at the time you were tested, please indicate original information:
Name
Street
City
State ZIP
Tel. ()
Date examination was taken (mo/yr)
State in which examination was taken
I hereby authorize Promissor to send to me at the address above a duplicate of my score report.
Your signature

Date





Texas Registered Sanitarian Voucher Request Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date	
Last Name	
First Name	Initial
Address	
City	
State	ZIP
Payment Type:	Company check Cashier's check
()	()
Day Phone	Evening Phone
Email (if you would like the voucher #	emailed to you)

TDH Multiprogram Program Code: 37TX

Make all checks payable to "Promissor" and mail this form to:

Promissor c/o AP Voucher Program PO Box 41508 Philadelphia, PA 19101-1508

Allow Promissor seven (7) days to process your request. Promissor will send the voucher # by standard mail or email.

GENERAL INFORMATION

You may call (800) 470-8753 to make an examination reservation.

TEST CENTERS		
Code	Location	Schedule
4402	El Paso	Wednesday through Saturday
4407	Arlington	Monday through Saturday
4408	Lubbock	Saturday
4412	Corpus Christi	Saturday
4419	Amarillo	Saturday
4420	Tyler	Friday and Saturday
4421	Austin	Monday through Saturday
4422	Houston	Monday through Saturday
4423	San Antonio	Monday through Saturday
4426	Houston II	Monday through Saturday
4427	Waco	Saturday
4428	Plano	Monday through Saturday
4429	Midland	Saturday
4470	McAllen	Friday and Saturday
4477	Abilene	1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month

Locations and schedules are subject to change.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE (2004)

No examinations on the following holidays or holiday weekends:

New Year's Day/Eve Independence Day/Weekend

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Labor Day/Weekend

Presidents' Day Columbus Day

Spring Holiday Thanksgiving Day/Weekend

Memorial Day/Weekend Christmas Day/Eve